

Department of State ^{PS10145-0111} TELEGRAM

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S/S-O:TRREYNDERS:E0
2/20/80 22522
S/S-O:UFROPE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MP
2/20/80

ROUTINE

ALDAC.

REF REPORT, INFORM CONSULS, CINC/SHAPE FOR POLADS ONLY

E.C. 12065: GDS 2/20/86- (REYNDERS, THOMAS R.)

TAGS: XX, US

SUBJECT: (U) CURRENT FOREIGN RELATIONS, ISSUE NO. 8,
FEBRUARY 20, 1980

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2. {U} PA--AMERICANS FEEL COLDER TOWARD SOVIET UNION THAN AT ANY TIME IN PAST TWO DECADES

{U} THE INVASION OF AFGHANISTAN HAS VIRTUALLY ELIMINATED THE "GENERATION GAP" THAT HITHERTO CHARACTERIZED AMERICAN ATTITUDES TOWARD THE SOVIET UNION.

{U} AS RECENTLY AS LAST YEAR, THERE WAS A MARKED DIFFERENCE IN THE EXTENT TO WHICH THOSE OVER 50 AND THOSE UNDER 50 VIEWED THE SOVIET UNION FAVORABLY. ALMOST TWICE AS MANY YOUNGER AMERICANS HELD FAVORABLE VIEWS AS DID OLDER AMERICANS. CURRENTLY, THE GALLUP POLL FINDS, THE GENERATIONAL DIFFERENCE HAS ALMOST BEEN NULLIFIED; THE VIEWS OF YOUNGER AMERICANS ARE CONVERGING TOWARD THOSE OF THE OLDER SEGMENT OF THE PUBLIC.

{U} AS THE GALLUP POLL REPORTS THIS WEEK: "THE RECENT INCREASE IN DISILLUSIONMENT WITH THE SOVIET UNION IS FAR MORE PRONOUNCED AMONG AMERICANS UNDER 50 YEARS OLD THAN AMONG THOSE 50 OR OVER, POSSIBLY REFLECTING THE FACT THAT MANY YOUNGER PEOPLE ARE NOT FAMILIAR WITH, OR DID NOT LIVE THROUGH, THE COLD WAR OF THE 1950'S."

{U} GALLUP INTERVIEWERS USED A SPECIAL QUESTION FORMAT THAT NOT ONLY ASKS RESPONDENTS HOW THEY FEEL ABOUT A MATTER BUT ALSO HOW STRONGLY THEY FEEL ABOUT IT. IN THIS CASE, THOSE SURVEYED WERE HANDED A CARD AND ASKED: "YOU NOTICE THAT THE 10 BOXES ON THIS CARD GO FROM THE HIGHEST POSITION OF PLUS FIVE--FOR A COUNTRY YOU HAVE A VERY FAVORABLE OPINION OF--ALL THE WAY DOWN TO THE LOWEST POSITION OF MINUS FIVE--FOR A COUNTRY YOU HAVE A VERY UNFAVORABLE OPINION OF. HOW FAR UP THE SCALE OR DOWN THE SCALE WOULD YOU RATE THE FOLLOWING NATIONS: {THE SOVIET UNION}?"

{U} OVER THE YEARS, THE TREND OF FAVORABLE ATTITUDES TOWARD THE SOVIET UNION {BASED ON THE TOTAL GIVING A POSITIVE RATING FROM ONE TO FIVE} HAS BEEN:

- {PERCENT}

- JANUARY 25-28, 1980	13
- 1979	34
- JUNE 1973	45
- 1966	17
- 1956	5
- 1953	1

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(U) THE CHANGE SINCE LAST YEAR:

-	1980	1979
-	(PERCENT)	
- 18-29 YEARS OLD	18	41
- 30-49 YEARS OLD	14	37
- 50 AND OLDER	10	22
- DEMOCRATS	14	33
- INDEPENDENTS	14	38
- REPUBLICANS	12	23

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